

Powers of VCs of Central Universities

***189. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have curtailed/removed altogether the emergency powers of Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities recently; and

(b) if so, the details and rationale thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) In all the Central Universities either the Acts or the Statutes vest certain 'emergency powers' in the Vice Chancellors. By virtue of these powers, the Vice Chancellors are authorised, in matters requiring urgent action, to exercise powers vested in any authority of the University. While these powers are supposed to enable the Vice Chancellors to deal with emergencies and unforeseen contingencies without having to wait for the relevant bodies of the Universities to meet; a few Vice-Chancellors have been invoking this power as a matter of routine with the result that the statutory bodies, like the Court, the Executive Council and the Academic Council etc. are being increasingly asked to endorse action taken on their behalf by the Vice Chancellors thereby marginalising these bodies. In order that such a rather regressive development could be checked thereby enabling statutory bodies to play the critical important role envisaged for them in the overall democratic governance of the Universities, the Government have, with the approval of the President, in his capacity as the Visitor of all the Central Universities, issued the following guidelines for observance by the Vice Chancellors of all the Central Universities:—

- (i) Emergency powers conferred on the Vice Chancellors should be exercised with restraint and only in such emergency situations where the authority ordinarily empowered to exercise such powers is unlikely to meet in the near future and deferring a decision for consideration of the appropriate body is likely to create serious administrative inconvenience.

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RAJYA SABHA

- (ii) Routine matters like creation of teaching and academic posts, appointment to the said posts, finalising recruitment procedures, promotions under Merit Promotion Scheme/Career Advancement Scheme, upgradation of posts making them personal to the incumbents should invariably be placed before the authorities ordinarily empowered to take decisions in such cases. Emergency powers should not be exercised by the Vice Chancellors in such cases.
- (iii) Policy matters like amending/making/repealing of Statutes which, in fact, require assent of the Visitor should in no case be decided by the Vice Chancellors by invoking emergency powers.

Environment conservation

†*190. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any allocation of funds has been made by Government to States for environment conservation and plantations during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) the extent of funds utilized as on date and the funds yet to be utilized with reasons therefor; and

(d) the directions issued to the States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The details of release of funds by the Government of India to the States for Environment Conservation and Plantation during the Ninth Five Year Plan and the utilisation thereof are given in the statement. (See below). The main reason for the non-utilisation of funds is the delay in the release of funds to the implementing agencies by the State Governments.

(d) State Governments have been addressed regularly at different levels to ensure expeditious utilisation of funds. These are also

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.